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- 1. Dr. Thomas Poole House, Poolesville M: 17-15-1
- 2. John Poole House, Poolesville M: 17-15-2

Form 10-300 (R v. 6-32)

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The Poolesville Historic District is located at the junctions of Maryland Route 107 (Poolesville-Dawsonville Road), Maryland Route 109 and Willard Road. The Poolesville Historic District is 3 1/2 miles west-northwest of Dawsonville, in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Within the historic district are thirty-three buildings of local architectural and/or historical significance. This number includes structures representing a diversity of styles, materials, and usages, and includes residential, ecclesiastical and commercial architecture, as well as an assorted number of small domestic dependencies, such as dairys and smokehouses. With the exception of the present Town Hall, all of the buildings within the district are privately owned.

Although the occurrence of several disastrous fires in the early twentieth century claimed about twenty-five individual structures dating from the first half of the nineteenth century, a sufficient number remain together with those additional buildings constructed toward the close of the nineteenth century to form one of the largest remaining essentially nineteenth century villages of any significance in Montgomery County. There have fortunately been few intrusions on the town by later, more modern examples of twentieth century commercial architecture. The least obtrusive is the aforementioned Town Hall, built in 1910 in a vaguely classical It occupies a prominent location near the center of style. town and is widely recognized as a local landmark. The most obvious intrusions are those created by two automobile service stations, one located at the intersection of Maryland Routes 107 and 109, and several commercial enterprizes including a farm equipment outlet and a laundromat. The integrity of the village is most immediately threatened by the possibility of one of their three early twentieth century stores (these replaced earlier similar structures and were built in the late Victorian style with elaborate bracketed cornices) being replaced by a modern pre-fab corrugated metal structure. one of the three stores has been partially demolished so that the site can be utilized for parking. Unfortunately, these three store buildings represent the last of a number of similar structures that formerly occupied locations near the center of the village; others that do remain have been extensively altered for other uses. Thus far only two buildings have been renovated for adaptive use, and both of these have proved highly successful ventures. One of these is the 1785 House, a two-story, two-part, narrow brick structure at the junction of Maryland Route 107 (Fischer Avenue) and Willard Road, that has been converted for use as a law office and is attractive on the exterior but somewhat "colonialized" on the interior. The other is the Jamison Real Estate Building, a successful utilization of a former three unit Federal-style brick dwelling. The remainder of the structures

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Poolesville

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

within the district are private residences, many dating from within the first half of the nineteenth century, although a few date from the last two decades of the eighteenth century and about ten from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; of the latter category there is one outstanding example of the bungalow style. All of the private residences occupy large tree-shaded lots and are, for the most part, well maintained. Those few that are in a somewhat dilapidated condition, such as the Merchant's Hotel, are said to be candidates for future restorations, according to their respective present owners. Although many of the earlier eighteenth and nineteenth century properties have been enlarged and remodeled since their initial construction, they have managed to retain easily observable vestages of their former appearance and, indeed, through their various stages of "up-dating" physically document the developing sophistication and economic prosperity of their owners. Since many of these houses have remained in the same family for generations, and because there is such a vast amount of primary source material in various private and public collections, a restoration of almost all of these properties to their former appearance, or to any one period in their existance, would be possible.

The several fires that have occurred in Poolesville have created wide gaps in the streetscape but as the majority remain undisturbed by later development and are, for the most part, wooded, they at least help to preserve the rural nature

of the village and provide pleasant open spaces.

It is unfortunate that with the rapid growth of suburban Washington, Poolesville has seen fit to annex a great portion of the open farm land surrounding the village. Most of these hundreds of acres are being zoned for light industrial, commercial, and residential development. To date the extent of this development has been a waste of small housing developments that occupy a large area just east of the town. These developments consist of a variety of housing types, including "suburban ranchers," "bi-level colonials," and rough textured modular farms. The only other recent construction that has taken place in close proximity to the historic district is the large Poolesville High School on Willard Road.

The listing and brief description of the most significant historic buildings in Poolesville that follows is keyed to the

attached Historic District map:

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Poolesville

DESCRIPTION, continued

(1), BAUMAN HOUSE. This simple, two-story stone farmhouse, has been appreciably altered from the original. The front part, of log construction, is believed to be the original house, dating from 1783. (2), ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Built in 1847 this structure is one of the oldest churches in Poolesville. The original building was added to in 1890. It was recently restored and is in excellent condition. (3), HOSKINSON HOUSE. The Federal-style trim and overall plan of this house indicates that it was probably built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. been occupied continuously by the Hoskinson family since about 1845. A small brick dairy house at the rear is of particular interest. (4), 1785 HOUSE. The first known record of this house appears in 1832 when this small, twopart, two-story, brick house was owned by John Poole. It was originally two houses but was remodeled recently to adapt it for use as a law office. (5), VETERINARY OFFICE (Methodist Church). This simple, two-story brick building has been somewhat batered over the years but an authentic restoration would be possible using a known collection of contemporary (1820) records and later, pre-alteration photographs. This building has served a variety of purposes, from that of a church whose congregation divided into north and south sympathizers, to a Town Hall where some citizens refused to attend meetings because they felt it sacriligious, to its use in 1892 as a Y.M.C.A. center, and then to its present use as a veterinary clinic. An early minister is buried under the floor, and there are a few early stones in the adjacent cemetery. (6), DR. THOMAS POOLE HOUSE, a two and onehalf story, three-bay, brick Federal house that is one of the better representative examples of this architectural style in the area. To one side of the house is a lower, two-story addition built in 1870. A rear wing is of interest for a wide, arched doorway through which a small carriage could be driven. An interesting stone springhouse is also worthy of continued preservation. (7), FREDERICK POOLE HOUSE. original five-bay section of this two-story, seven-bay stuccoed brick house is believed to have been built by Robert Willson prior to 1820 as it is listed in the tax assessment for that year. The present appearance of the house, however, dates from the late nineteenth century. Decorative Victorian cast iron porch supports and fencing are particularly noteworthy. During the Civil War the body of Col. Edward Baker, friend of President Lincoln, Senator from Oregon and a Commander of the Union Forces, was brought to this house after he was killed at the Battle of Pall's Bluff in October, 1861.

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(8), MERCHANT'S HOTEL, built as the home and office of Dr. Stephen White in 1830. The basically Federal-style house was later the home of his son, Dr. Benjamin White. In the late nineteenth century the house served as a small hotel and the present owners are considering restoring it to its late nineteenth century appearance, utilizing the original Merchant's Hotel sign. (10), WATKINS' HOUSE, while this small house is fairly typical of the townhouses of the first half of the nineteenth century its continued maintenance helps to preserve a degree of continuity to the streetscape. (12), OLD BAPTIST CHURCH. This small, two story brick structure with an end facade and crow-stepped gable is one of four churches built within a few years of each other along similar architectural lines. The 25 by 40 foot structure was dedicated in 1865. (14), The SCHUM HOUSE, is the original clapboard faced house built around 1800, recorded as a tavern operated by a Mr. Riney in 1802. It was occupied in 1860 by Samuel Cator who was postmaster and blacksmith. was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Tillack in the 1950's. Its present owners expect to preserve its period character. (16), HERSPERGER HOUSE. The original section of this two part brick and frame house was built in 1830 in a style reminiscent of tidewater Maryland architecture. A frame addition was made to it in This house appears in pictures of Poolesville the 1870's. taken during the Civil War. (18), TOWN HALL. The foundations of this Hall, the third building to be built on them, are said to have been originally laid in 1826 and the present building erected on them in 1910 which served as a bank until The original (1826) building was part of a larger inn. Situated on an island made by the juncture of Old Coxen's Lane and Fisher Avenue it is the town landmark. It has so long dominated the center of town that its preservation and restoration is urged. (19), JOHN POOLE HOUSE. Though of a poor appearance, the original log portion of this interesting small house is documented as having been built in 1793 and thus is one of the oldest houses in Poolesville. Its origin as the home of John Poole, for which Poolesville is named, validates its historical significance to the village. The original section has a large stone and brick chimney at one When an addition was made to the rear a second similar chimney was built and between the two chimneys a small, shed roofed, stone out-shut. (20), STEVENS' HOUSE. This interesting, two story, ell shaped, late Federal-style brick house is believed to have been built in the 1840's with no alterations

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Poolesville

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

or additions of any significance made to it since that time. (21), JAMISON REAL ESTATE OFFICE, an attractive two-part building recently renovated for its present use as a real estate office. This is an excellent example of the adaptive use of a former three unit dwelling that probably dates about 1830. In 1855 this property is recorded as having had, besides the existing building, a tailor shop, a brick meat house, a log kitchen, a small, wooden, one-story shoe shop, and a log stable. (23), HALMDS HOUSE. This pleasant, two-story frame house, the home of the present mayor of Poolesville, is attractively situated on a large tree-shaded lot. Built during the second half of the nineteenth century it has several Victorianstyle embellishments. This house is a fairly typical example of similar adjacent structures. (24), HILLARD HOUSE. its great number of deep, balustraded verandas and wide gables this is perhaps one of the most attractively designed and maintained early twentieth century bungalow-types in this area. (31), PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. The church was built in 1847--1848 of brick made in Washington, D.C. Except for the addition of the entrance vestibule, it remains today exactly as it was when built, with three tall windows on each side elevation, two second floor windows on the gable front, and an interior gallery. This church was the scene of several incidents during the Civil War, including minor skirmishes on its grounds and its use as a hospital. On one historic Sunday Captain "Lige" White's cavalry unit surrounded the church during services, waited for the services to end, and captured the emerging Union troops. (32), SEYMOUR'S HOUSE. Not much is known of the early history of this house. It is of log construction and of an early design. Its appearance with its perfect proportions on an unusually small scale adds to the charm of a small town streetscape. (33), JOHN HALL HOUSE. An 1832 record shows Craven P. Beeding as the owner-builder of "a large frame house" on this site. However, a log portion of this two-story, seven-bay clapboarded house is believed to date from about 1800.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The boundaries of the Poolesville Historic District encompass an interesting collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture that, in context, has great significance to the social and economic development of this area of Montgomery County. Unfortunately, several fires, most notably those of 1923, 1935, and 1953, have destroyed various buildings, creating wide gaps in the streetscapes. In several instances these empty lots have been, within the last two decades, commercially developed, using building styles that do not harmonize architecturally or aesthetically with the surrounding village. However, the integrity of the town has been essentially retained and is worthy of attention on both local and state levels.

Although Poolesville is primarily an early nineteenth century village, that for all practical purposes began its existance as a convenient crossroads settlement which served the many surrounding farms, the building of private residences and commercial establishments continued well after the Civil War. This history of the settlement, however, dates to about the middle of the eighteenth century when various land grants were given to a small number of individuals settling what was then Maryland's frontier. It was these early grants that were, by the close of the eighteenth century and the first two decades of the nineteenth century, eventually resurveyed and divided into smaller tracts and individual lots.

The first house erected in Poolesville is the John Poole House, a small log structure built in 1793. In the thirty odd years ensuing the tax records show only four additional buildings as having been built, but by 1830 the number had grown to ten, with thirty-one additional lots surveyed but as yet undeveloped. By 1850, however, there were twenty-five families residing in Poolesville and the majority of the houses now standing date from this period of Poolesville's growth. The Federal census of 1850 shows the following occupations represented in Poolesville: three blacksmiths, two cabinetmakers, five tailors, two merchants, two physicians one teacher, and two wheelwrights. By 1861, when a map of Poolesville was prepared by Simon Martinet, there were fifty-one standing buildings, excluding domestic dependencies,

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of which there was undoubtedly a large number.

Although Poolesville in the eighteenth century was situated along a well established and frequently traveled route, and by the 1840's had established itself as an important economic center for this then sparsley settled region, it wasn't until the years of the American Civil War that the town experienced state and national attention of any significant degree. The proximity of Poolesville to a number of battle areas placed the village in an awkward situation, given the divided loyalties of the inhabitants; it was as frequently occupied by Union troops as it was Confederates, these troops often arriving within one day, or even several hours of each other.

The following is taken from one of the many sources that document activities that occurred in and around Poolesville during the Civil War:

Poolesville possibly saw more of the Civil War than any other town in Maryland with the exception of Sharpsburg. In June, 1861, Poolesville was occupied by Stone's Corps of Observation and throughout the winter of 1861-62 some 20,000 troops were encamped within five miles of the town. Many of these troops became a part of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac. At the Frederick Poole House located on the south side of Fischer Avenue, just before Willard Road, the funeral services were held for Colonel Edward Baker, killed at Ball's Bluff on October 21, 1861. The town was frequently occupied by Federal troops and occasionally by Confederate troops. During the Antietam campaign, September, 1862, Confederate General "Jeb" Stuart established here his extreme right flank. Federal troops entered, advanced from the east along the present Md. 107 and a considerable skirmish resulted. Colonel E. V. White, a native of this community and commander of the 35th Va. Cavalry Battalion raided this area in December, During the remainder of the winter some 5,000 Federal Troops were detailed to this area. 26, 1863, Poolesville was headquarters for General Joseph Hooker as he followed Lee northward. his attack on Washington in July, 1864, Confederate General Jubal A. Early passed through Poolesville in retreat to Virginia.

¹ Maryland Remembers. Hagerstown, Maryland. The Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission; 1964. pp. 30-31.

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Following the aftermath of the Civil War Poolesville made several attempts to regain its former position as an important and viable economic center but with the building elsewhere of newer towns and commerical centers itsefforts quietly failed. Although it incorporated itself in 1888 its efforts at total revitalization were insufficient. The fires of 1923 and 1935 significantly altered the appearance of the village and the displaced families relocated themselves in other areas of the county. The Poolesville of today is but a fragment of its former self, but with the preservation of the fortunately remaining portion an important visual lesson in local and state history can be maintained.

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J. Richard Rivoire, Maryland Historical Trust 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, Maryland 21401 May, 1974



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in the center. The stair rises to a cross landing, then continues and forms a wide open well to the third floor.

The double parlor on the right has two fireplaces, each with mantels which have rare round fluted columns. Between the two rooms are four folding doors hinged into two pairs, which when closed, fill up the whole of the space between the two rooms, and when open leave the two rooms as one. All window jambs are panelled with aprons below their sills. There is a back stairway from the rear parlor to a private office and bedroom on the second floor. Back of this parlor are several rooms, including a dining room, kitchen, and ancient meat house.

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On the second floor are bedrooms over each of the parlor rooms. Mr. and Mrs. Meerdink, owners 1961, have the vare house furnished in keeping with its interior charm. Many pieces have been assembled from far and wide, including a rare console pipe organ, upon which Mr. Meerdink performs with a touch of mastery. He is also a painter of merit in oil and water-colors.

Frederick Poole's

As stated elsewhere in this book, the Poolesville neighborhood is well known for its numerous fine brick houses, dating from early in the uineteenth century. Standing near the sidewalk on the main street in the center of the village, the house shown has attracted attention for at least a century and a half.

According to Scharf's *History* and strong local traditions, John Poole built the first house in the village, which acquired its name from him in 1793. (A photograph of that house is shown below.) The large house is believed to have been built not many years after 1793, and probably by a man named Willson, whose wife was a member of the Poole family.

The laud on which this house and probably much of the village stands is described as "Poole's Ratification," a tract of seventy acres, conveyed by John Poole to Joseph Poole, and the deed is dated November 23, 1769. The daughter of a Willson who built the large house, married a Poole named Robert in 1792, and the house was probably built soon after that time. Their son, Frederick S. Poole, born 1809, married about 1840 Mary Tillard Douglas Willson, born 1812. Their son from whom the house acquired its name in recent times was Richard, born in 1843. In 1869 Richard married Florence Priscilla Poole, who was born in 1844.

It is of interest to note that Richard and Florence Poole were cousins. As Florence lived in Baltimore and Richard in Montgomery County, they had never seen each other until they met at a party in Baltimore shortly before their marriage. The very beautiful lacey, "grape



NO. 85 E-3 FREDERICK POOLE'S BY A WILLSON CA. 1800 BRICK PEBBLE DASH

pattern," cast iron grill along the front porch, was placed there after their marriage in 1869. When driving through Georgetown, Florence expressed a desire for a grill like one she saw on a house there, and Richard complied with her wishes. It is still without a flaw or break and worth a trip to Poolesville to see its artistic beauty. The wisteria along the front is from two main plants, one at each end of the porch.

Riehard Poole died in 1906 and his wife Florence in 1930. The house was purchased by their daughter Frances, after the death of Florence. There is a delightful lot of three and one-half acres surrounding the house, which is of red brick. The pebble dash was added after 1930 by the former owner, who married William Williams in 1906. They had one son, William E., who lives in Washington.



NO. 85 E-3 A. JOHN POOLE 1793 LOGS

As one enters the wide front hall, there is a parlor on the right with fireplace and living room on the left, also with a fireplace. On the second floor is a bedroom over each of the first floor rooms, and in the rear wing over the present kitchen are two rooms.

The dead body of Col. Edward D. Baker in command of the Union forces, who was killed in the Battle of Balls Bluff in October, 1861, was carried through the front hall of this house and laid out in a rear room. (See Annington.) Funeral services for Col. Edward Baker were held in the White House at the request of President Lincoln, his good friend. It is of interest to note that there is a heroic statue of Colonel Baker in Statuary Hall, at the Capitol—a gift from his native state.

Mrs. Frances Williams, who was very generous to the author with her information about this and other houses in Poolesville, died recently, and this handsome home in 1962 is owned by Julian Freeman.

The first house in the village, shown herein, is of logs covered with siding, has four rooms on the first floor and three on the second, and is on a lot of about one acre. The large stone fireplace and stone bake oven are still features as shown in the photograph taken in 1950.

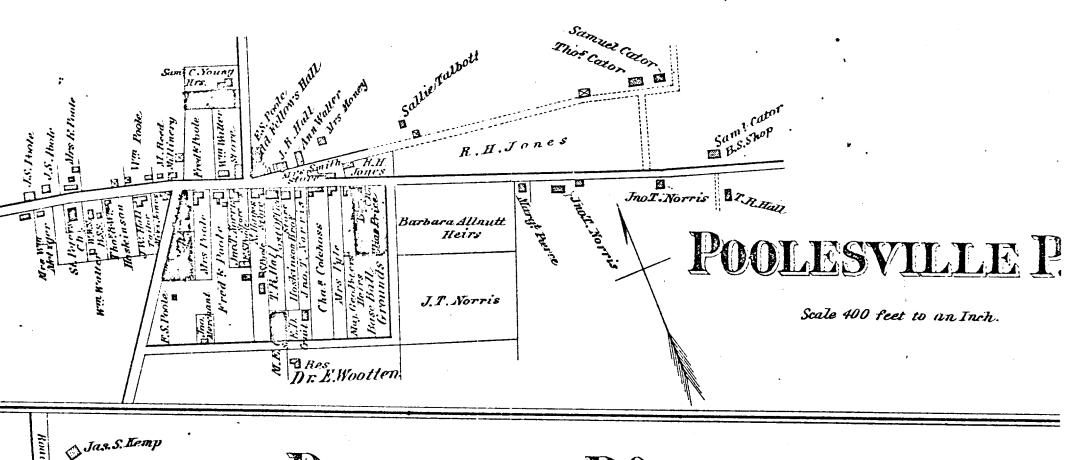
Prospect Hill

N an elevated spot overlooking the picturesque Hawlings River, meandering through green meadows in the valley below, stands a historie, yet modest homestead shown in the photograph below. Facing south, it once was a secret meeting place of patriots, before open rebellion was climaxed by armed conflict in April, 1775. It was also a chapel for worship in those thrilling days.

Two brothers, John and James Holland, came from England about the middle of the eighteenth century, and tradition credits John with building the original house at Prospect Hill, about 1750 or 1760. There is a record that James bought a tract of land in that area in 1768. The house is constructed of hand-hewn studding, "nogged" or clinked with bricks.

The older part of the house on the right of the front door has every appearance of being of pre-Revolutionary construction, although the main, left portion, is believed to have been built not much later. To the right of the front door is a hall, which leads into the main room of the first floor behind the bay window shown in the photograph. It was in this room, which had a huge fireplace in early days, that the "rebellious" citizens met to discuss ways and means of redressing grievances. In this room, too, religious services were held. The small pulpit in one side of the room was replaced recently, rather ironically, by a gun and trophy room.

It is asserted by some that the Hawlings was originally named "Holland's River," because so many settlers of that name lived along its meadows. This recalls an aneedote. About the year 1876, an old Dutch eattle dealer from West Virginia or Ohio, when driving a herd of eattle into the area, kept asking about "Holland's River," a stream about which he had apparently heard so much. It was glorified in his imagination. He expected to see something at least equal to the Potomae. When he finally saw the so-called "river"—no larger than Rock Creek, —he exclaimed in disgnst: "Shucks! Dam that river, and I can earry it away in a bucket and a bag!" The pretty stream drains a valley about ten miles long in the eastern part of the County between the Patuxent River and Rock Creek.

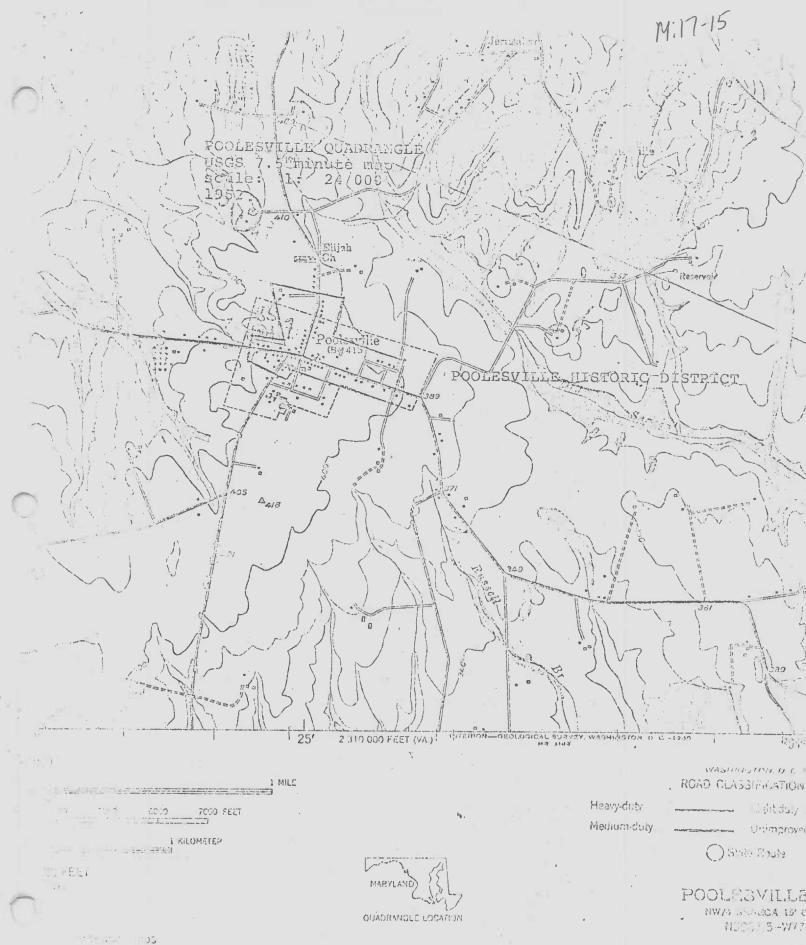


Damascus P.O.

Scale 240 feet to an Inch.

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1032



NAME 1785 HOUSE POOLESVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

LOCATION R4 107 POOLESVILLE MAL

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 4/20/74 C. OWENS



NAME DR. POOLE HOUSE FOOLESVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

LOCATION R& 107 (MAIN ST.) POOLESVILLE, MAL

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 4/20/14 A OWELL



#17-15

NAME DR. POOLE HOUSE

PHOTO TAKEN 4/20/74 C.OWENS

LOCATION Rt. 107 (MAIN ST.) POOLESVILLE Med

FACADE W



NAME #17-15 WM. POOLE HOUSE LOCATION Rt 107 POOLESVILLE Md FACADE S 4/20/74 COWENS PHOTO TAKEN



NAME D.R. POOLE HOUSE

LOCATION Rt 107 (MAIN ST.) POSTESVILLE, Md.

PHOTO TAKEN 4/20/74 M.OWYER



#17-15 DR. THOMAS POOLE HOUSE - OUTBLDGS. LOCATION Rt 107 POOLESVILLE, Md **FACADE** PHOTO TAKEN 4/20/14 B COWENS

NAME